**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method of ex vivo gene therapy comprising ~~for the myogenic conversion of~~ genetically ~~modified~~ modifying dermal fibroblasts by a method of myogenic conversion comprising:

ex-vivo transduction of dermal fibroblasts with a therapeutic gene or a gene capable of correcting a gene defect, to produce transduced fibroblasts; and

transiently infecting said transduced fibroblasts with a vector containing a muscle lineage commitment gene under the control of a strong promoter, said vector being selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus vector, a baculovirus vector and an adeno-associated viral vector, and

wherein said genetically modified dermal fibroblasts are myogenically converted at a rate of greater than 40%; and

administering said genetically modified dermal fibroblasts to muscle tissue of a person to receive said therapy.

Claim 12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein the vector is an adenovirus vector.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein the muscle linage commitment gene is selected from the group consisting of MyoD, Myf-5, MRF4 and myogenin.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein said gene is MyoD.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein said promoter is a viral promoter.

Claims 17-22. (Canceled)